Live telecast programmes at Bangalore

1511. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan has arranged live telecast of the function of the Karnataka Government held on the 9th July 2005 at Bangalore to honour Dr. Raj Kumar for his contribution to Kannada film industry during the last five decades;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it has come to Government's notice that private TV channels have arranged live telecast of the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) *Prasar Bharati have informed that* DDK, Bangalore did not arrange live telecast of the function of the Karnataka Government held on 9th July, 2005 at Bangalore. They have further informed that the rights to cover the programme were given to a private channel by the organizers.

Export earnings of film industry

1512. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that films' export earnings are becoming increasingly important to producers, as the share from this segment is rapidly expanding;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the estimated Rs. 4,500 crore turnover of the Indian film industry, export earnings amounted to Rs. 1,000 crore; and

(c) if so, what benefits Government intend to give to the film industry particularly to its demand to grant full exemption from CVD for raw films stock imports and for removing the restriction that films must have a minimum budget of Rs. 5 crore to qualify for the bank finance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) According to the report of the

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on the Indian entertainment industry, brought out in 2004, the Indian Diaspora across Europe, Africa, Middle-East, Latin America and North America is conservatively estimated at 20 million. The underlying export potential of the film industry is linked to effective reach of Indian films to these viewers.

FICCI has also stated that the export earnings for the film, television and Animation Industry for the last three years have been increasing from Rs. 925 crore in 2002 to Rs. 975 crore in 2003 and Rs. 1010 crore in 2004.

(c) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of overall development of this sector:

- Institutional and bank financing are now accessible to the entertainment industry. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)'s Film Financing Scheme was introduced in April, 2001. Assistance under the Scheme is made available to the corporate entities promoted by reputed producers with a satisfactory track record. IDBI has informed that the minimum size of budget of a film that is required for it to be eligible for assistance has been internally set at Rs. 4 crore.
- The Ministry has taken up several proposals which provide tax/duty relief to the film sector and exemption from CVD to raw films is one such issue.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permissible in the film sector.
- Government has led participation in global markets with a view to enhancing visibility of film industry.
- Film weeks and festivals are held on reciprocal basis with various countries.
- Audio-visual co-production agreements with other countries are being explored to expand avenues of finances and markets for the Indian film industry. Recently this Ministry has signed an Audio-visual Co-production Agreement with the Government of the Italian Republic.

- The Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub-committee of the 24th State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), set up to suggest a policy framework for the film industry has recommended reduction of entertainment tax; steps to counter piracy in the film sector, measures to facilitate foreign film shooting in India etc.
- A Venture Capital Committee which was set up to sugggest a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector has submitted its recommendations.
- The National Film Development Corporation, a public sector unit under its Ministry provides limited funding for films and oversees the integrated growth of the film industry in tune with objectives of the national economic policy.

Channels of TV programmes in all regional languages

1513. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government can take initiative to make compulsory inclusion of the programmes including news bulletin in all the regional languages of the country in private television channels also;

(b) whether Government will also take steps to include programmes including news bulletin on DD-I in those languages, which have been included recently in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government does not decide programme schedules or content of private channels. However, programmes on private channels transmitted/retransmitted through Cable Television Networks are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that programmes and news bulletins in Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali already form part of the